

and others. The meetings raised hopes among the international community that a mutually acceptable settlement would now be more seriously sought by the Greek Cypriot side, whose policy over the years had been to delay the start of full-fledged negotiations.

On July 20th, the Turkish Cypriots commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish peace operation, which prevented the attempt by the Greek Cypriots to annex the island to Greece. Although peace prevails in Cyprus today, the social, economic, and political development of the Turkish Cypriots have been restricted for more than 3 decades.

In order to promote the spirit of goodwill generated during the recent meetings, it is my sincere hope that this positive stance demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders will be supported by the United States government. The Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated their willingness to work collaboratively, by voting in favor of the Annan Plan, which presumed great sacrifices for the Turkish Cypriots, because nearly a quarter of their territory would have been ceded to the Greek Cypriot side, and almost a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population would have been dislocated, some for the second, third, and even fourth time.

Despite the potential impact of the Annan Plan, 65 percent of Turkish Cypriots voted in favor of the historic referendum of April 24, 2004, while 76 percent of Greek Cypriots voted against it. The Turkish Cypriot people, in their continued commitment to achieve a just and lasting settlement that respects the political equality of these two groups on the island are still waiting for the international community to honor the promises it made to them.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the unwavering commitment of the Turkish Cypriot people to reunify the island, and I encourage the United States government to lend its support to lifting of the isolation that presently exists.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 512, 513 and 514.

HONORING THE CITY OF TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Turlock upon their celebration of their 100th Anniversary.

In 1871, John Mitchell, a prominent land owner in Turlock, came to an agreement with the railroad. The railroad agreed to build a train depot, a switching yard and telegraph station on a portion of Mr. Mitchell's property.

In return, Mr. Mitchell gave the railroad a twenty five mile right of way passage through his vast land holdings. The land consisted of over 100,000 acres of wheat that spanned from, what is now, Ceres to Atwater and west to the San Joaquin River. It was a win-win situation for all; while the railroad was able to expand, Mr. Mitchell was able to move products.

Over the next 20 years, growth in the area was slow. It did, however, experience a great amount of financial success. During California's Golden Wheat era of the mid to late 1800s this area was shipping an extraordinary amount of wheat across the United States and around the world. Turlock was booming, but it did not last long. With the over planting of crops, the poor farming practices, and depleted soil the production of wheat fell drastically. The Golden Wheat era was over by 1890. It only took 3 years for Turlock to fade away, and in 1893 John Mitchell, the founder of Turlock, passed away. Mr. Mitchell had brought life to Turlock; he was responsible for bringing the railroad and he financed many farmers and businesses. With a nationwide economic collapse on the horizon, Turlock faced two more problems; water and fire. The farmers in Turlock desperately needed an irrigation system to keep their crops going, and then a massive fire destroyed downtown Turlock.

Fortunately, luck changed for this small farming town. In 1901, irrigation was funded. Small farmers were back in business, and Turlock began to thrive again. John Mitchell's heirs hired a land promoter and sold his vast holdings into small farming lots. People began to flock to Turlock. By 1907, Turlock was experiencing record breaking activity in commercial and residential construction. The push for incorporation began to take hold. A special election was held on January 21, 1908 and Turlock was incorporated with about 1800 residents. A board of trustees, a treasurer, a clerk and a marshal were all elected into office. Today Turlock has a population of over 69,000 and is home to California State University, Stanislaus.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the city of Turlock on 100 years. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Turlock many years of continued growth and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY J. PIGOTT, CHIEF OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION IN THE 96TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Shirley Pigott on her retirement as the Chief of the Community Relations Division at the 96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office, Eglin Air Force Base.

Mrs. Shirley Pigott has had many accomplishments in her 31 years of civil service work

for the military. She served as Deputy Director and Chief of the Community Relations Division in the Air Armament Center Office of Public Affairs. She was an Advisory Board member of the Okaloosa County Cherokee Elementary School, Eglin Air Force Base Officers' Club, and Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

She was a Military Affairs Committee Advisory Board member of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Niceville/Valparaiso Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce. Shirley was a member of the Okaloosa County Veterans' Memorial committee, the American Heart Association Ball Committee, and the Air Force Association. She was also a member of the Board of Directors on the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women.

Furthermore, Shirley served her community by being the foremost Eglin authority on local civic and opinion leaders. She was a helpful figure during President Bush's visit to Eglin. Beyond her community, Shirley worked with the White House staff preparing guest lists.

Shirley attended Okaloosa-Walton College and received 2 years of college credit in Management. She has taken 182 hours of the Air Force College of Installation Sustainment and Management, A3, classes and numerous other Air Force classes on a variety of topics. Shirley took 1 year of Bible classes by correspondence from Rhema Bible Institute in Tulsa, OK. She continued her education by taking Mandatory Annual International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card, IMPAC, Card refresher classes with certificates.

Shirley Pigott has received a long list of important certificates and awards. They include: Air Force Systems Command Public Affairs Civilian of the Year Award, 1987; The Military Order of the World Wars Certificate for supporting the Massing of the Colors ceremonies, 1990-2006; Robert L.F. Sikes "Patriotism Award" from the Crestview Chamber, 1993; Air Force Enlisted Foundation Certificate for supporting the Bob Hope Birthday and Anniversary celebration, 1996; Air Force Development Test Center Best Program, ComRel Award, 1997; Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce President's Award for Outstanding Assistance to the Chamber and the Armed Forces, 1999; Certificate of Appreciation for the Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs Achievement Awards Second Place—Director's Excellence Award, Special Achievement, 2000; Certificate of Appreciation for Exemplary Civilian Service in supporting President George W. Bush's visit, 2002; Notable Achievement Award for outstanding leadership and support for the 2004 Open House and Air Show, 2004; Air Armament Center Staff Civilian, Cat IV, of the Quarter, 2005; Nominee for the First Northwest Florida ATHENA Awards Program, 2006; and, Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame Nominee, Second Annual Northwest Florida ATHENA Awards Program Recipient, Air Armament Center Recognition Ceremony for Community Support, 2007.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Shirley Pigott on her retirement and wish her many more years of success and happiness